

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m²/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³, wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1% by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less.

2. (currently amended): ~~The~~A carbon material for a lithium battery ~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein said graphite powder has a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.9 g/cm³~~ comprising graphite having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m²/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³,

wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm², the specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 Ωcm, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less.

3. (currently amended): ~~The~~A carbon material for a lithium battery ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2,~~ consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³ and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C,

wherein when said powder is subject to pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm³, a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 Ωcm, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less.

4. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³ and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of 53 μm or more is 1 % by weight or less.

5. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein a specific surface area is not more than 3 m²/g.

6. (currently amended): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim ~~4 or 5~~, wherein an aspect ratio is not more than 6.

7. (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having a specific surface area of not more than 3 m²/g and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³, wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk

density of 1.5 g/cm^3 , a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than $0.06 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$, and

wherein the content of particles having a particle size of $3 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or less is 1 % by weight or less and the content of particles having a particle size of $53 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or more is 1 % by weight or less.

8. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to $30 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$.

9. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to $30 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$.

Claims 10-13 (canceled).

14. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of $6.745 \text{ } \text{\AA}$ or less.

15. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of $6.745 \text{ } \text{\AA}$ or less.

16. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of $6.745 \text{ } \text{\AA}$ or less.

17. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of $6.745 \text{ } \text{\AA}$ or less.

Claims 18-21 (canceled).

22. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

23. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

24. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

25. (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (canceled).

28. (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

29. (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

30. (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

31. (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

32. (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

33. (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

34. (new): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

35. (new): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 2, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

36. (new): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

37. (new): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.

38. (new): A method for manufacturing the carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 7, which comprises pulverizing coke or other carbonized raw material prior to graphitization, classifying the resulting particles, and then graphitizing the particles.